

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SAA-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 DLOS-09 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 /098 W  
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O 251731Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4415  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM  
USMISSION USUN NY  
USMISSION SINAI

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AMMAN FOR ATHERTON

E. O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PGOV PINT IS  
SUBJ: KNESSET DEBATES FOREIGN POLICY

1. THE KNESSET DEBATED FOREIGN POLICY JULY 24 AGAINST THE  
BACKGROUND OF A SHARPENED ALIGNMENT ATTACK ON THE GOVERNMENT'S  
HANDLING OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. OPENING THE SEVEN-HOUR DEBATE,  
FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN REVIEWED THE LEEDS CONFERENCE AND COM-  
PARED ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN POSITIONS ON A PEACE AGREEMENT AS  
EXPRESSED AT LEEDS. HE OUTLINED THE SEVERAL POINTS OF  
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AGREEMENT IN THOSE POSITIONS AND THE FAR MORE SUBSTANTIAL  
AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT. DAYAN ALSO SPOKE OF THE SIGNIFICANT  
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U S AND THE GOI ON THE QUESTION  
OF WEST BANK WITHDRAWAL, STRESSING THAT THE U S DEFINITION  
OF "MINOR ADJUSTMENTS" OF THE 1967 LINE MEANT "LATRUN-TYPE"  
CHANGES AND THE REUNITING OF VILLAGES DIVIDED BY THE GREEN  
LINE.

2. HOWEVER, THE HIGHLIGHT OF DAYAN'S SPEECH WAS HIS STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS, AFTER THE PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS, THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. (THE AFTERNOON PRESS YESTERDAY REPORTED THE ESSENCE OF THIS GOI FORMULATION EVEN BEFORE THE KNESSET SESSION OPENED.) DAYAN SAID THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THREE POINTS HE HAD CONVEYED TO SECRETARY VANCE LAST WEEK AT LEEDS. THE OTHER TWO WERE:

SHOULD EGYPT PROPOSE A PEACE TREATY BASED ON TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE, ISRAEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER IT; AND ISRAEL WILL NOT AGREE TO A PEACE PROPOSAL BASED ON A WITHDRAWAL TO THE JUNE 4, 1967, BOUNDARIES, WITH INFINITESIMAL ADJUSTMENTS, EVEN IF THESE ARE ACCOMPANIED BY SECURITY GUARANTEES. (SEE SEPTEL FOR PRESS REACTION TO DAYAN'S POLICY STATEMENT.)

3. SPEAKING FOR THE ALIGNMENT, FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER YIGAL ALLON reproached the U S for its "ALMOST COMPLETE IDENTITY WITH EGYPT'S POSITIONS" and Sadat for his insults to begin. Allon stated that Sadat's dramatic visit to Jerusalem could not be his sole contribution to peace and neither could "dictates" from Cairo take the place of negotiations. With this introduction out of the way Allon launched into a methodical attack on Begin's peace plan.

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"IT IS A BAD PLAN," WHICH IF REJECTED BY THE OTHER SIDE WOULD LEAVE ISRAEL APPEARING INTRANSIGENT. "BUT, IF IT IS, GOD FORBID, ACCEPTED, THE HIGHWAY FOR THE DE"ZIONIZATION OF ISRAEL WOULD BE OPENED." ALLON TAUNTED THE COALITION BY CONTRASTING THE RESULTS OF THE LEEDS CONFERENCE WITH PERES' VIENNA TALKS. HE DECLARED THAT THE KREISKY-BRANDT STATEMENT WAS THE BEST INTERPRETATION OF 242 AND 338 BY ANY INTERNATIONAL BODY AND BERATED BEGIN FOR HIS "MCCARTHYITE" ATTACKS ON PERES AND THE LABOR PARTY. FINALLY, CRITICIZNG BEGIN'S "YEAR FULL OF FAILURES," ALLON ASKED THE PRIME MINISTER TO RESIGN AND RETURN TO THE OPPOSITION, A ROLE HE HAD FILLED WITH SUCH "GREAT TALENT."

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4. BEGIN CONCLUDED THE DEBATE WITH A WARP-UP OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION. HE REFERRED TO THE CABINET'S DECISION REJECTING RESTORATION OF EGYPTIAN CIVILIAN ADMINISTRATION TO EL ARISH AND DECLARED THAT HE WOULD GIVE EGYPT "NOT EVEN ONE GRAIN OF DESERT SAND AS A GIFT." ALTHOUGH ISRAEL WANTED FULL PEACE TREATIES, BEGIN SAID THAT IF THIS PROVES "DIFFICULT, OR IMPOSSIBLE . . . WE ARE PREPARED TO AGREE TO PEACEFUL RELATIONS" ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY. BEGIN POINTED TO THE EXAMPLE OF WEST GERMANY'S PEACEFUL RELATIONS WITH ITS FORMER WORLD WAR II ENEMIES DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF PEACE TREATIES. BEGIN DEFENDED HIMSELF AGAINST ALIGNMENT ACCUSATIONS THAT HE HAD BEEN CAVALIER WITH STATE SECRETS, I.E., KING HUSSEIN'S  
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REQUEST TO MEET WITH PERES, IMPLYING THAT IT WAS THE LABOR PARTY ITSELF WHICH HAD LEAKED THE STORY.

5. MOST OF BEGIN'S SUMMATION WAS, HOWEVER, DEVOTED TO A STRIDENT ATTACK ON PERES AND THE ALIGNMENT FOR ALLEGED INSINUATIONS CONCERNING HIS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH. THESE HE ROUNDLY DENOUNCED AS SLANDERS FAR SURPASSING ANYTHING VOICED ABOUT HIM IN CAIRO. BEGIN DECLARED THAT IT IS NOT THE ROLE OF THE OPPOSITION TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH

THE ARAB STATES; IT IS THE TASK OF THE GOVERNMENT; AND, IN APPARENT REPLY TO ALLON'S CALL FOR HIS RESIGNATION, HE DECLARED THAT THIS GOVERNMENT IS GOING TO CONTINUE TO RULE.

6. COMMENT: IN HIS DELIVERY YESTERDAY, BEGIN MATCHED THE VIGOR HE DISPLAYED IN THE JULY 19 KNESSET DEBATE (TEL AVIV 9191) BUT WITHOUT THE HISTRIONICS EXHIBITED ON THAT OCCASION. HOWEVER, HIS PERFORMANCE YESTERDAY EVOKED A SIMILAR SCENE OF CATCALLS AND RAUCOUS VERBAL SPARRING WHICH BECAME PARTICULARLY INTENSE WHEN BEGIN WARMED UP TO THE HEALTH ISSUE. THE PM OBVIOUSLY RELISHED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACT THE ROLE OF INJURED PARTY AND SEEMED TO FIND THIS ISSUE EASIER TO MANIPULATE THAN PERES' VIENNA TALKS WITH SADAT. BEGIN'S VITRIOLIC REACTION WAS PRECEDED BY PARTICULARLY SHARP ATTACKS BY THE COALITION ON PERES. FOR EXAMPLE, ON JULY 24 THE LIKUD AND NRP RAN AN AD IN MAARIV RECALLING A LONG HISTORY OF PERES NEGATIVISM: HIS OPPOSITION TO FRIENDS, TEACHERS, COLLEAGUES AND HIS PM (RABIN). MANY OBSERVERS REGARD THIS ACRIMONY BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION AS UNPRECEDENTED IN ITS HARSHNESS. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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